



# Senate Education Committee

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## HOUSE BILL 2078-REPRESENTATIVE PHILLIPS-HILL

### SYNOPSIS:

Provides for expedited educator certification and reduced fees for members of the military, veterans and their spouses and provides for the removal of inactive certification for all educators who meet certain criteria.

### SUMMARY:

Amends the Public School Code to provide for expedited educator certification and reduced fees for members of the military, veterans and their spouses. Requires the Department of Education to process completed applications for permanent college certification within 14 days for the following individuals:

- Member of the US Armed Forces, including a reserve component or National Guard
- Veteran
- Spouse of either of the above individuals.

“Veteran” is defined as an individual who has served in the United States Armed Forces, including a reserve component or National Guard, and who was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable.

Requires the above mentioned military members, veterans and spouses to pay only the following fees to PDE for the individual’s certification:

- Certification fee shall not exceed \$10; and
- Professional educator discipline fee shall not exceed \$25.

Permits a professional educator whose certification has been placed on inactive status but who subsequently applies to PDE for removal of inactive certification to have the application granted immediately if the professional educator meets all of the following requirements:

- Holds a valid professional certificate issued by another state;
- Provides evidence of current compliance with the continuing education requirements of the other state; and

Was employed on the certificate of the other state within the two calendar years prior to submitting the application.

Upon removal of active certification, requires the educator to retain the same number of hours of continuing professional education and the same amount of time to complete the 180-hour requirement as existed for the educator when inactive certification was granted.

In the event that a certificate was placed on inactive status by PDE due to the expiration of the professional educator's compliance period, the professional educator shall begin a new five-year compliance period in order to complete the 180-hour requirement.

Effective Date: 60 days.

**BILL HISTORY:**

Passed House 6/7/16 (186-0)

Prepared by: Phenicie 10/14/2016